GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1003
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
POLICY FOR USE OF RAILWAY LAND
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the land use policy adopted by the Railways in the recent times;

(b) whether the Railways are aware of the fact that thousands of people have encroached upon and settled themselves on the railway land without having any authorisation; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to evict unauthorised occupants and protect railway land?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. R.VELU)

(a): The vacant railway land is required by the Railways for its future development works. However, till such time, the land is required by Railways for its own operational use, the same is put to various short-term uses like commercial licensing, commercial plantation, Grow More Food (GMF) scheme, etc. In addition, where potential exists, it is proposed to undertake commercial development of land through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA).

(b) & (c): As on 31.3.2008 there are approximately 1.44 lakh encroachments covering an area of 1567 hectare. Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments on railway land in accordance with the provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 (PPE Act, 1971) and Railways Act, 1989. Before eviction of encroachers, prior notices are issued and adequate opportunities are granted to the encroachers for voluntarily vacating the land. Removal of encroachment is invariably done in the presence of State Govt. authorities like Magistrate etc. In the process of removal, efforts are always made to ensure that the encroachers do not face any hardship.